

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01165 01 OF 02 041907Z

50

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

BIB-01 ERDE-00 ACDE-00 /087 W
----- 014922

P R 041710Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 421

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING COMMITMENT:

SPC MEETING MARCH 3

REF: A. USNATO 1022 DTD 251630Z FEB 75;

B. MBFR VIENNA 513

C. STATE 34467

SUMMARY: SPC ON MARCH 3 AGAIN CONSIDERED AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING COMMITMENT. BELGIAN REP CIRCULATED PARAGRAPHS OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT CONTAINING PRECISE LEGAL LANGUAGE. ITALIAN, U.S., AND FRG REPS POINTED OUT THIS WENT BEYOND WHAT THE AHG WAS ASKING, AND THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO DRAFT PRECISE LEGAL LANGUAGE AND TO USE IT WITH THE OTHER SIDE. BELGIAN REP SAID BELGIUM IS PREPARED TO HAVE AHG, ON BASIS OF PRECISE LEGAL TEXT, PRESENT PARTIAL INDICATIONS TO THE OTHER SIDE. NEXT SPC CONSIDERATION OF GUIDANCE TO AHG ON THIS MATTER TENTATIVELY
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01165 01 OF 02 041907Z

SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MARCH 10. ACTION REQUESTED: CONFIRMATION OF U.S. VIEWS, WHICH WASHINGTON HAS STATED AS PRELIMINARY AND GUIDANCE ON FRG AND BELGIAN POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PARAGRAPHS OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT CIRCULATED BY BELGIAN REP AT OUTSET OF THE MEETING (MISSION TRANSLATION). BEGIN TEXT

-A. FIRST AGREEMENT (MBFR I)

ARTICLE (A)-THE UNITED STATES COMMITS ITSELF TO REDUCE BY ITS GROUND FORCE MANPOWER STATIONED IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND NOT TO EXCEED THEREAFTER THE TOTAL RESULTING FROM THAT REDUCTION.

ARTICLE (B)-(ADOPTION OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT).

B. TREATY (MBFR II)

ARTICLE (M)- BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, UK AND U.S. COMMIT THEMSELVES TO REDUCE BY THE TOTAL LEVEL OF THEIR GROUND FORCE MANPOWER STATIONED IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS.

ARTICLE (N)- THE ABOVE MENTIONED COUNTRIES WILL APPORTION FREELY AMONG THEMSELVES THE WHOLE OF THE REDUCTION TO BE CARRIED OUT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRECEDING ARTICLE.

ARTICLE (O)- THE ABOVE MENTIONED COUNTRIES WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE TOTAL LEVEL OF GROUND FORCE MANPOWER STATIONED IN THEIR PART OF THE REDUCTIONS AREA, AFTER EXECUTION OF THE REDUCTION PROVIDED ABOVE, DOES NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL RESULTING FROM THAT REDUCTION, AND COMMIT THEMSELVES JOINTLY TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO THIS END SO FAR AS THEIR GROUND FORCES ARE CONCERNED.

ARTICLE (P)-(NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE).

ARTICLE (Q)-UNLESS IT IS STIPULATED OTHERWISE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN MATTERS, THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENT TREATY MAY NOT BE HELD TO INVALIDATE THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT MBFR I".

END TEXT

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 01165 01 OF 02 041907Z

2. BELGIAN REP (BURNY) SAID THE PURPOSE OF THIS TEXT WAS TO MAKE CONCRETE IN JURIDICAL TERMS THE NATURE OF THE GLOBAL COMMON CEILING AND THE ABSENCE OF NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS. HE NOTED THAT SO FAR AS A COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE WAS CONCERNED, THE BELGIAN TEXT, IN ASSIGNING JOINT RESPONSIBILITY, MEANT THAT COMPLAINTS WOULD BE DIRECTED TO ALL PARTNERS. HE NOTED FRG REP'S COMMENT AT PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT THE ALLIES WOULD NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO PREVENT A SINGLE ADDRESS FOR COMPLAINTS FROM DEVELOPING INTO A POLITICAL-LEGAL CONTROL ORGANISM (REF A, PARA 4). THE BELGIAN TEXT WOULD OBVIATE THIS DANGER.

3. UK REP (BAILES) NOTED THAT THE DRAFT ARTICLES DID NOT GO

INTO THE COMMON CEILING OF ABOUT 700,000, AND SAID THAT THE UK HAD THOUGHT THAT THE COMMON CEILING AND THE REDUCTIONS TO REACH THAT COMMON CEILING COULD BE PUT IN THE SAME FORMULA. BELGIAN REP REPLIED THAT BETWEEN ARTICLES (B) AND (M) OF THE BELGIAN TEXT THERE ARE MANY POSSIBILITIES, AND THE BELGIAN TEXT SOUGHT ONLY TO ADDRESS THE COLLECTIVE NATURE OF THE COMMON CEILING.

4. ITALIAN REP (SPINELLI) SAID THE BELGIAN TEXT WENT FAR BEYOND WHAT THE AHG WAS ASKING FOR IN PARA 13 OF ITS DECEMBER 12 REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE (REF B). HE SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE AHG TO SUBMIT SUCH LEGAL DETAIL TO THE EAST AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS THE AHG ONLY NEEDS TO SAY AS LITTLE AS WHAT THE FRG PROPOSED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING TO INDICATE WHAT THE ALLIES WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO (PARA 2, REF A). BELGIAN REP REPLIED THAT AHG HAD ASKED FOR GUIDANCE IN "LEGAL AND PRACTICAL TERMS" ON THIS POINT, TO QUOTE FROM PARA 13 OF THE AHG REQUEST (REF B). HE STATED THAT THE AHG WANTED JURIDICAL LANGUAGE.

5. U.S. REP (MOORE) SAID THAT THE PRELIMINARY U.S. VIEWS ALREADY STATED IN SPC (REF C) WERE CLOSE TO ITALIANS REP'S VIEW THAT THE AHG SHOULD NOT SUBMIT SUCH LEGAL DETAIL TO THE EAST AT THIS TIME. IN THE U.S. VIEW, PRECISE LANGUAGE FOR A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT. WOULD DEPEND ON A NUMBER OF THINGS INCLUDING THE FORM OF THE AGREEMENT. THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD INDICATE TO THE EAST WAYS THAT THE EASTERN CONCERNS CAN BE MET BY PUTTING FORWARD ILLUSTRATIVE WAYS OF HOW A COMMON CEILING COMMITMENT MIGHT OPERATE.

SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 01165 01 OF 02 041907Z

6. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID HE KNEW HIS AUTHORITIES VIEWS WERE IN THE DIRECTION JUST EXPRESSED BY THE ITALIAN AND U.S. REPS. AT THIS TIME IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SAY ANYTHING TO THE OTHER SIDE RESEMBLING LEGAL LANGUAGE ON THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING, BUT SIMPLY TO GIVE THEM AN IDEA OR EXAMPLES AS TO HOW IT WOULD OPERATE. HE INQUIRED IF BELGIANS WERE ADVOCATING, AS IT APPEARED, THAT COMPLAINTS WOULD BE DIRECTED TO ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ON A GIVEN SIDE, OR IF BELGIUM HAD SOMETHING MORE STRUCTURED IN MIND.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 01165 02 OF 02 041912Z

50

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

BIB-01 ERDE-00 ACDE-00 /087 W
----- 015043

P R 041710Z MAR 75
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 422
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1165

7. BELGIAN REP SAID ARGUMENTS THAT USE OF PRECISE LEGAL LANGUAGE WITH THE OTHER SIDE WOULD BE PREMATURE HAVE A CERTAIN WEIGHT. BELGIUM IS PREPARED TO HAVE AHG, ON BASIS OF PRECISE LEGAL TEXT, PRESENT PARTIAL INDICATIONS TO THE OTHER SIDE FOR THE PRESENT. REGARDING THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE, BELGIUM IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA OF ONE COUNTRY OR ORGANISM ON EACH SIDE RECEIVING COMPLAINTS, BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT HE ALSO WAS AGAINST INSTITUTIONALIZATION BUT HE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH INDICATING A PARTICULAR STATE TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS, AND THE BELGIAN PROPOSALS FOR SIMULTANEOUS COMPLAINT PROCEDURE SEEMED TOO COMPLEX.

8. MC REP (GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH) POINTED OUT THAT THE BELGIAN DRAFT ARTICLES TAKEN TOGETHER COULD DEFINE THE SHAPE OF THE REDUCTIONS, IN VIEW OF THEIR REFERENCE TO MANPOWER ONLY, AND NOT TO UNITS OR ARMAMENTS. BELGIAN REP REPLIED THAT THE TEXT WAS NOT INTENDED TO GO BEYOND THE ALLIED NEGOTIATING MANDATE, BUT SIMPLY CONCERNED THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING. FRG REP
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01165 02 OF 02 041912Z

NOTED AGAIN THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR ALLIES TO WORK ON PRECISE LEGAL LANGUAGE IN THIS CONTEXT, SINCE THE ALLIES DO NOT KNOW THEMSELVES WHAT WOULD BE THE EXACT CONTENT OF A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT, AND THE ALLIES OBVIOUSLY SHOULD SAY NOTHING TO THE OTHER SIDE WHICH WOULD LEAD IT TO THINK THE ALLIES WERE PROPOSING EASTERN REDUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL ONLY.

9. UK REP INDICATED THAT HER AUTHORITIES ARE STILL STUDYING THE AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON THE LEGAL AND PRACTICAL BASIS FOR THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WERE CONDUCTING AN INTER-AGENCY REVIEW OF THE QUESTION THIS WEEK, AND HE EXPECTED BY THE NEXT MEETING A DUTCH POSITION GOING BEYOND THE PRELIMINARY DUTCH VIEWS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED.

10. NEXT SPC CONSIDERATION OF GUIDANCE TO AHG ON THIS MATTER

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MARCH 10.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON FRG POSITION, IN
LIGHT OF MISSION COMMENTS IN PARAS 8 AND 9, REF A, AND ON BELGIAN
POSITION DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE
CONFIRMATION OF U.S. VIEWS, WHICH WERE STATED AS PRELIMINARY IN
REF C.

BRUCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO001165
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750398/abbrzinp.tel
Line Count: 227
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 1022 DTD 251630Z FEB 75; B. MBFR VIENNA 513 C. STATE 34467
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <03 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING COMMITMENT: SPC MEETING MARCH 3
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO BONN
LONDON
MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006